

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method in a data processing system for routing a request to one of a number of servers, comprising:

- receiving a request including a session identification;
- performing a hash function on the session identification to form a first hash value;
- performing a modulus function on the first hash value to form a first integer;
- routing the request to a first server based on the first integer in response to the first server being functional;
- performing a hash function on the first hash value to form a second hash value in response to the first server being non-functional;
- performing a modulus function on the second hash value to form a second integer;

and

- routing the request to a second server based on the second integer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the integer is between zero and the number of servers minus one.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of routing the request comprises looking up the server in a look-up table using the integer.

11-26. (Canceled)